

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3382

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: GOA MOVES AGAINST PRESS

1. THE GOA HAS ISSUED AMBIGUOUS STATEMENT INDICATING IT IS PREPARING TO MOVE AGAINST PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, LA NACION, PRESUMABLY FOR ITS PUBLISHING ADVERTISEMENT IN WHICH AN "EXTREMIST GROUP" CALLED FOR THE FORMATION OF CITIZEN BRIGADES TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARMED FORCES.

2. MORE OMINOUSLY FASCIST, ANTI-SEMITIC RIGHT-WING MAGAZINE, EL CAUDILLO, WILL PUBLISH TOMORROW DEATH THREAT AGAINST PROMINENT ARGENTINE POLITICAL COLUMNIST HERIBERTO KAHN OF LA OPINION. ADVANCE COPIES OF THREATS AGAINST KAHN WERE DISTRIBUTED ON EVENING OF NOV 6 TO ALL THOSE PERSONS COMING IN AND OUT OF PEQUENA COMPANIA HOSPITAL IN WHICH PRES PERON IS PRESENTLY INTERNED.

2. KAHN AND ENRIQUE JARA, LA OPINION SENIOR EDITOR, TOLD EMBOFFS NOV 7 THAT IN ADDITION TO THREATS AGAINST KAHN THEY HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT JULIO GONZALEZ FACTION WITHIN GOA PREPARING ORDER TO TO CLOSE DOWN LA OPINION. THEY EXPECT PAPER TO BE CLOSED IN NEAR FUTURE FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE DAYS. BOTH WERE ADAMANT IN DECLARING THAT DESPITE PHYSICAL COERCION AND LEGAL THREAT THAT THE PAPER WOULD BE CLOSED, LA OPINION WOULD CONTINUE ITS CRITICISM OF THE GOVT PARTICULARLY IN AREA OF CORRUPTION.

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3. COMMENT: KAHN, ONE OF THE BEST INFORMED AND COURAGEOUS OF LOCAL NEWSMEN, HAS EXTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL TIES WITH US JOURNALISTS INCLUDING MONTALBANO OF MIAMI HERALD AND KANDELL OF NEW YORK TIMES. IF HE IS OBJECT OF AAA ATTACK THEY DOUBTLESS WILL TAKE UP CUDGELS ON HIS BEHALF AND WILL MAKE INCIDENT MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. FURTHER, KAHN PERSONALLY ENJOYS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINE MILITARY, PARTICULARLY ADMIRAL MASSERA, AND MILITARY WOULD ALSO REGARD ATTACK ON HIM AS VERY SERIOUS MATTER. FINALLY, IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS, KAHN IS WELL KNOWN TO TOP JEWISH LEADERS IN US WHO CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO REACT VIGOROUSLY IF HE IS PHYSICALLY HARMED.

HILL

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